

*TOXICODENDRON VERNIX* ADDED TO  
THE FLORA OF NOVA SCOTIA

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During a survey of the distribution of rare coastal plain plants along lakeshores in southwestern Nova Scotia, I discovered two patches of *Toxicodendron vernix* (L.) Kuntze around the inflow to Telfer Lake in Queens County (44°18'N, 65°03'W). Approximately 20 bushes of *T. vernix* grow in the open with scattered trees of *Acer rubrum* L. and various smaller shrubs (*Nemopanthus mucronata* (L.) Trel., *Alnus serrulata* (Ait.) Willd., and *Viburnum cassinoides* L.) on a hummocky point dominated by *Osmunda regalis* L. at the southern end of the lake. Several bushes were fruiting heavily in mid-September and a few dead bushes were observed along the shoreline to the north of the point. The largest bush was 4 m high and stems at ground level were 10 cm in diameter. A second site was found along the south-facing shoreline of the stillwater at the end of Bull Moose Brook. Here, a few bushes of *T. vernix* grow beneath *Acer rubrum* trees in association with *Nemopanthus mucronata*, *Alnus serrulata* and *Chamaedaphne calyculata* (L.) Moench, with undergrowth of *Glyceria obtusa* (Muhl.) Trin., *Osmunda cinnamomea* L. and *O. regalis*.

The first Canadian report of *Toxicodendron vernix* (under the syn. *Rhus venenata* DC) was from western Ontario (Macoun, 1883). Since then it has been found in eastern Ontario and in southwestern Quebec (Scoggan, 1978). In the United States, *T. vernix* ranges from Texas and Florida to southwest Maine, and extends inland to southeastern Minnesota (Gleason, 1974). Gleason makes no mention of Canadian stations. The present finding of *T. vernix* in Nova Scotia extends its known range by approximately 400 km from the nearest population of the species in Maine to the south and by approximately 550 km from the nearest population to the west in Quebec. It is obviously an addition to the rare vascular plant species of Nova Scotia (Maher et al., 1978). Specimens of *T. vernix* from this newly-discovered site are deposited in ACAD and CAN.

Lakeshores in southwestern Nova Scotia contain many rare coastal plain species which are disjunct from the main part of the species' ranges along the coastal plain of the U.S.A. (Roland and Smith, 1969; Keddy, 1985). Recently, the coastal plain shrub

*Clethra alnifolia* L. was found to be abundant along the boggy shores of two remote lakes in southwestern Nova Scotia (Taschereau, 1969; C. R. K. Allen, unpubl.). *Toxicodendron vernix* is well represented along the coastal plain but also ranges further inland. Two other shrubs, rare in Nova Scotia and restricted to the southwest of the province, were also found along the shores of the secluded Telfer Lake: *Alnus serrulata* has a coastal plain distribution similar to *T. vernix*; *Cephalanthus occidentalis* L. is well represented on the coastal plain but is also found in California and the West Indies.

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